An entirely new double bill was put forward at the Metropolitan Opera House last night. The first feature of it was a novelty, an opera hitherto unknown to the Metropolitan boards and to the United States. This was "Der Wald," by Miss Ethel Smyth. It was followed by "Il Trovatore," which had not been heard previously in the course of the season. Der Wald" was first performed in Berlin at the Royal Opera on April 9, 1902, and was one of the novelties of the last season at Covent Garden, London, where it was di-rected by Otto Lohse It is a one-act work, and in order that it might have a fair hearing it was put at the beginning of last night's programme and the hour was set for 7:45. This was excellently suited to the requirements of professional ob-servers of musical doings and the general public, but it was mortally hard on the society people, many of whom were com-mitted to the hearty support of Miss Smyth and her ambition.

The production of an opera by a woman is a decided novelty, and it is not astonishing that the public turned out in good force to see what it was. After the curtain had fallen and the artists had been called out two or three times, Miss Smyth made her appearance. She was applauded to the echo and laden with owers. She received seven recalls and departed from public view apparently well pleased with her

Miss Smyth, emulating the audacious Wagner, is her own librettist; and the story which she has conceived for "Der Wald is one filled with good thought for musical embodiment. It is well supplied with opportunity for atmospheric effects and for emotional expression. It begins with a dim, nocturnal spectre of the primeval forest. A fitful fire flames on an altar to Pan and nymphs are engaged in their decorous devotions. In their chorus we hea the text of the dramatic sermon: "Huran joys and sorrows are swift and fleeting: we dwell here forever." The mystic lights and s adows of the forest fade into utter tragedy begins. The forest is the same one, but in the foreground at one side is a hut, the home of Röschen and her father.

We learn that Röschen is betret led to Heinrich, a young woodman. Friends come with gifts. There is happiness in the air. A pedler appears and more gifts are bought from him. Suddenly a horn breathes in a far-off glade, and all shudder with alarm.

from him. Suddenly a horn breathes in a far-off glade, and all shudder with alarm. The inquiring pedler is informed that it is the horn of lolanthe, the mistress of the Landgrave and a fearful witch. Presently, when all have gone, young Heinrich arrives, dragging a deer which he has alain. Röcchen is terrified, for it is death to slay a deer. She persuadee Heinrich to hide it in the well. The lurking pedler sees him put it there, and decides that he will go and twang the crossbow for venison himself.

Heinrich, left alone, is confronted by lolanthe, who has been hunting. She strives to enamare the youth by her beauty and passion. He clings to his troth, which performance naturally leaves the temptress in no cheerful frame of mind. The Landgrave comes and has a bitter quarrel with his lady on the subject of her infidelities. The hunting pedler is caught by the huntsmen, and it is about to go hard with him when he shifts his burden of blame by telling about the dead deer in the well. The Landgrave sees now how he will be revenged on Heinrich, whom he suspects of too much favor with lolanthe. The latter would save the youth if he would consent to be hers. Röcchen conjures her lover to abandon his faith to her and save himself. But he, rising with poetic courage above his lowly station, declares that their love is sacred and will cutlast life. He scorns loisake, and will cutlast life. He scorns loisake, and will cutlast life. He scorns loisake, and is about to be huntamen and slain in aftere fight. Röcchen falls senseless upon his body.

Assing larger and the sabotation which harms the name or any identification mark of the owner or shipper. The fine for each offence is \$50.

The laws were passed primarily to protect the milk dealers, but also to prevent irresponsible persons from furnishing milk in reputable dealers' cans or bottles.

fierce fight. Röschen falls senseless upon his body.

Again darkness covers the scene and presently the altar fire and the nymphs reappear. The dim cathedral arches of the forest again resche the old song. Human life and love are but a span the spirits of the forest live forever. That is a genuinely dramatic story, and its only serious fault is its abundance of incident. It would doubtless be stronger if it were simpler; yet it is difficult to see how the thought could be worked out with less material.

An exhaustive review of this ambitious

material.

An exhaustive review of this ambitious little work cannot properly be given this morning. It is doubtful, however, whether a summary of first impressions will not serve all needful ends. Miss Smyth has endeavored to build her musical scheme on a plan similar to that of the old French overture, with a slow movement at the beginning and another at the end and a quick movement between them. The two atmospheric forest scenes are the slow movements and the tragedy the allegro appassionato.

A contrast in moods is afforded by the

quick movement between them. The two atmospheric forest scenes are the slow movements and the tragedy the allegro appassionate.

A contrast in moods is afforded by the change from the first forest scene to the peasant dance and merry-making. The tragedy is now gradually developed till its emotional climax is really reached in the scene between Heinrich and Iolanthe, though it is perfectly clear that the composer aimed at reaching her high level of musical eloquence in the eager apostrophe of Heinrich and Hoschen to the forest.

The principal characteristics of the work are vigor and masculinity. No one who did not knew would ever suspect that this score was the work of a weman. It is the product of a mind which works far from feminine moods. Meiting accents of tenderness, sentimectalism, the appeal to the sympathies of the roung person are wholly absent from the work. Unquestionably the stern directness of its appeal to calinous developments of the pulments to its path toward popularity.

Logic is a good thing and the light of refugent reason sheets a healthful illumination upon the plains of art; but a single larger of overmantering passion has maky a time and off confounded sages and set and entered to the standard standard of the standard standard standard and are admitted by the cars. A rucky drop of manily histod the surging sea outweighs, as fairness the sample incoming the standard stan

a Resych lanesand to hear opens from

entire performance. There was only one mistake, and that was an accident with

parisons, as every performance has its merits, but I think that Mr. Grau has given Der Wald' the best singers it has had. They were all so excellent."

Miss Smyth was filled with regret that

she was not to hear the second presenta-tion of her opera, which is set down for next Friday.

"I have only time to sail for England on Wednesday, spend twenty-four hours there, to say 'Howdy-do' to my dog and then hurry on to Strasburg," she said.

"Der Wald' is to be sung there on the last day of March and I must direct the re-hearsals.

"I wish it could be given here on Satur-"I wish it could be given here on Saturday night at the popular performance. I care more for the verdict of the people in the galleries than for the opinion of any other public. But the audience was charming to-night. Nobody could have wanted a more enthusiastic hearing."

Miss Smyth is to go later to Vienna, where Director Mahler is to produce "Der Wald" at the Imperial Opera House.

Adjutant-General Henry reviewed the First Battery last night, and Capt. Wendel introduced a novelty in the shape of a physical drill with sabres. The drill was something like the musical drill with rifles of the infantry.

SUNDAY LECTURES IN SCHOOLS.

They Don't Like It.

A committee of prominent ministers and laymen has formed to oppose the action taken by the Board of Education in allowing the opening of public schools on Sunday for lectures or amusements. The Methodist and Baptist meetings, held yesterday, and the New York Presbytery, have endorsed framed by the committee and which will be forwarded to the Board of Education next week, have already been signed by scores of pastors. The Rev. Dr. W. R. Huntington, rector of Grace Church, is the chairman of the committee. Other denominations are represented by the following ministers: the Rev. Dr. Israel Wistar Hathaway, Col. Alexander P. Ketchum and the Rev. Dr. David G. Wylie, Presbyterians; Rev. Dr. David G. Wylle, Presbyterians; the Rev. J. D. Steele, Reform Presbyterian; the Rev. Dr. R. S. Moarthur and the Rev. Dr. Campbell, Baptist; the Rev. Dr. A. B. Sanford, the Rev. Dr. J. O. Wilson and the Rev. Dr. W. F. Anderson, Methodist; the Rev. Dr. D. J. Burrell and the Rev. Dr. Fagg Dutch Reform.

The contention of the ministers is that

The contention of the ministers is that the opening of the schools on Sunday is in defiance of the Sunday law. Dr. Burrell said yesterday that the general belief among the clergy was that the opening of the schools for lectures and instructive entertainments was merely a wedge to gain entrance there for amusements which were not in strict accordance with the observance of the Sabbath laws. He asserted that in several of the public schools last Sunday, there were entertainments which included dances and negro songs.

LOWER FREIGHT RATES ORDERED ote Railroad Commission Fixes Upon

a Reduction of 25 Per Cent. SPRINGPIELD, Ill., March 11.-The Railroad and Warehouse Commission to-day decided to order a horizontal reduction in

all freight rates in the State. The reduc-

all freight rates in the State. The reduction of 25 per cent. is made up to a distance
of 150 miles, beyond which the rates are to
be scaled so that they will be on an equality
with those in adjoining States.

The reduction is the result of the long agitation by the retail merchants of the State,
who produced evidence before the board
showing that rates in adjoining States are
much lower and cities in other States ship
into Illinois and underbid her merchants.

The board also considered a revision of
the classification. Any article that appears
now in two or more classes will be placed
in the lowest class in which it appears.

Randolph Guggenheimer gave out a statement yesterday in which he said that Chief Judge Alton B. Parker should receive

the Democratic nomination for President because every patriot had been aroused at the menace of a "social tyranny" growing out of the protected industries. Mr. ing out of the protected industries. Mr. Guggenheimer said the reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform by the Democrats would be suicidal, and that the man who could by his strong personality and intellect most successfully represent real Democratic principles and win back the confidence of the voters was Judge Parker, Furthermore, Mr. Guggenheimer thinks that Judge Parker is the only Democrat who can awing New York back to the Democratic column.

HAN FRANCISCO, March 11 -- An imperial Chinese jade tablet, stolen at the time the Emperor's Polace in Pekin was looted Chinese Coverament

beren bludents buspended for Maringthe investigation of the faculty of Methol-hors University into the backup of therin figure, of Micross. Said, a new standard of the antiversity, pomercing, sevent out come who tamb pairs in the stair were our come of the tamb pairs in the stair were our second stoods for the fact of the Chartest was described with see water and the clather were oversed with see water and the clather

The marriage of Mise Adeir & Friedman. Assembles of the inte dutie t Friedman. In Landon & Lyan, Auth plans and night of the Shranchir family first parties and first first first for the first first

Action Mater than sourced to Miss Setting Walf of Source Perfector at the Source of the Arrive's purcents. Mr and Mrs. Setting Walf 116 Park Seventy-night street & welding problem was severed

THEATRE HERE AND ABROAD.

HUMORS AND FOLLIES OF PLAYS AND PLAYGOERS.

Bibulous Man's Comment on the Parso in "Ghosts"-Paul Heyse and the Ger-

"Ghosts" is a play of antique simplicity We compared it once to a string quartet intense, intimate with tragic pauses and an overwhelming dénouement. Yet this piece, so easy to grasp, provokes the most ecomical comments from some audiences. No doubt Mary Shaw and her company

could tell some funny stories. Last Saturday night a small man with large 'load' gave personal pleasure to those who sat within range of him-and the Osborn Playhouse is a band box. He was not irreverent, not a ribald note was sung by him; but he took too deep an interest in the play, so deep, indeed, that at the beginning of the third act he sobbed

"That there minister hadn't ought to drink so much."

We were all shocked. Pastor Manders as you know, is a man of unbler habits, and as portrayed by that excellent actor, Maurice Wilkinson, he never sug-gests for a moment the besetting vice of hingstrand. But the critic in the stalls saw matters in a different light. For him Darkest Ibsen gave up new ghosts. Whenever Manders appeared he called out:

"Ha, ha! Been to the club again! Say you old soak, you ought to be ashamed! One interested in the play gently remonstrated. It was not successful. "Go chase ourself," was all the young man said.

Earlier in the week a woman in one of the boxes screamed as Mary Shaw solemnly intoned: "Ghosts! Ghosts!" So there are all manner of folk at an Ibsen play, though none quite so original as the sceptic who believed not in the worthy olerical busybody. We recall the finale. After Oswald became a sun worshipper our noisy friend seemed dumbstruck. It only lasted a moment. He burst into cheers and rudely clapped a pair of No. 11 hands.

"Well, of all the gillies. Say, why didn't he yell for the Police Gazette!" This sounds too good to be true, but, nevertheless, it is true. Earlier in the week a woman in one of

The censorship that will deprive Berlin from hearing Paul Heyse's "Mary of Mag-dala" is ridiculous when you think it over, especially in a city that listens to Suderold-fashioned; but Prussian hypocrisy has

Perhaps the Emperor is not in the best of humor after his recent tilt with Delitzsch and the gentle critical drubbing adminstered by Harnack. "L'Eglise, c'est moi!" s his old watchword, and doubtless "The heatre-I am It " will be his new one.

It is lucky this decision came here after sured. Many people are imitative in matters theatrical, and the pulpit-of Waterbury and elsewhere-would have taken the thing seriously. But it is too late. Mrs. Piske is enjoying success in Cincinnati, though soon we expect to hear the usual

yawp.

London is no whit better in this kind of cheap puritanism. Work the oracle the right way, however, and almost any sort of nonsense will be endured if it smells of

piety.

Here is that old trick turned up again of a winking head of Christ. Herbert Salomon-ominous name-exhibits a picture with eyes that seem to open and shut. Gabriel Max painted a "Handkerchief Christ," as it was called twenty years ago. Now, frankly, is there any more irreverence in the Heyse drama than in this conjuror's illusion?

The fact that many eminent Berlin artistic and literary celebrities protested, such as Mommsen, Menzel, Sudermann and others, may have some effect with the Emperor. We hope so.

D'Annunzio is still building that new for it "King Numa" and intends to give his attention to three epochs in Florentine history for dramatic treatment, "1300,"
"The Republic," and "Medici." If the
theatre is ever built much good American money will go into the enterprise, as Lieb-ler & Co. can testify. Nineteen hundred and four is the time set for the opening.

Hart Conway has produced George Bernard Shaw's "You Never Can Tell" at the Studebaker Theatre, Chicago. The stuwith the Chicago Musical College played this comedy, which is delicious. London several seasons ago roared over its delicate ironles, its topsy-turvy humor and its brilliant epigrams.

How is it that theatrical managers go about bewailing the dearth of good comedy about bewailing the dearth of good comedy when Mr. Shaw's plays are published in three slender volumes? "Cæsar and Cleopatra" would make the fortune of a clever pair of comedians. Nobody sees this; the plays have no "heart interest;" they leave one with a diminished respect for one's self and one's herd. Name of a pipe! But they have a herr interest; they joggle up that refractory organ; they make you laugh, all kinds of laughter—coarse, nasal, ventripotent, intellectual and snickering laughters. Why look a gift shaw in the mouth if your audience laughs?

The Belie of New York" in Austria and Germany it was called "Die Schoene von New York," and it was not well done. Now the piece has been put on in Vienna, at the Central Theatre and is called "Das Madehen von der Hellearmee," and is a success. What's in a name? "The Sal-vation Army Girl" would kill the operetta in English.

The late Kate Vaughan took no pleasure in her dancing. The Landon Kra reports her as saying. 'I never enjoy it, and I have never enjoyed it. I cannot remomber the day when I did not hate to hear the hand strike up the notes. and it was time

PL MI ATTON

HELEN KELLER'S Autobiography

"The Story of My Life"

will be published shoul March in. A metable and must interesting from con-taining also selected letters by Mine Kei-ler, a study of her by John Albert Mary, and Proportraits, views and farminies contract or days revenued at all books long

Doubleday, Page & Co. 34 Union Square L. N. Y.

Some one has written a skit on the "Encyclopædia Britannica," rather a difficult indertaking, we fancy, and George Alexander's attention to dress is taken off.
He is supposed to have written the following testimonial: "Four volumes make a perfect press for trousers." We recommend this to Earl D'Orsay of Pawtucket.

Frank Lawton is still the subject of theatrical paragraphers in England. And he still wets his whistle in "The Belle of New York" at the Coronet, London. Pip-ing has paid in his case.

News of Plays and Players. The annual benefit performance for the Actors' Fund will be given at the Metro-

politan Opera House this afternoon. The curtain rises at 1 o'clock. Many actors and musicians will take part in the benefit for J. A. Silberberg at Lyric Hall on Sunday. Mr. Silberberg has become almost blind, and is unable to do any playing where the reading of music is required.

ALL STARS FOR FROHMANS. Both Charles and Daniel Decide to Give

New York is to be without a stock com pany in any of its first-class theatres next year. Daniel Frohman decided yesterday that the first season of his new Lyceum Theatre would be devoted to E. H. Sothern and other popular stars, among whom will

The Empire Theatre stock company which has existed ever since the theatre was opened, will go out of existence after the present year. When the newly decorated theatre is opened next fall, it will be with Maude Adams in a new play. John Drew will follow her, and after that engagement Margaret Anglin will be the

gagement Margaret Anglin will be the star.

Mr. Frohman was under contract to make Charles Richman a star. He paid a large forfeit to be released. Mr. Richman and Miss Anglin have been co-stars of the Empire stock company on its travels for three years. Mr. Frohman has decided that public taste has now changed so that only stars are acceptable to the public.

SHE'S OUT WITH "MR. PICKWICK." He Gees Rambling

Louise Gunning, prima donna of "Mr Pickwick" at the Herald Square, is going to leave the company when it ends its run here two weeks hence. Miss Gunning's health is not good, and she says she can't play one night stands in her present physi-cal condition. She asked E. R. Reynolds, the manager of "Mr. Pickwick," to release her from her contract at the end of the run

her from her contract at the end of the run here, and he refused.

"Very well," said she, "if you don't re-lease me I'll hand in my two-weeks' notice and then you will have to let me go at the expiration of that time."

Miss Gunning received an offer yester-day of a place with an attraction that is soon to open here. If she doesn't become a member of this new company she is going to Paris to continue her musical studies.

TAX CASE WITNESS ARRESTED Harcourt, Who Testified Again

ringer, Admits a Theft. George Harcourt, the actor, who was th chief witness against Nathan Springer in the tax dummy prosecution, was arraigned before Magistrate Crane in Jefferson Marbefore Magistrate Crane in Jenerson Mar-ket court yesterday, on a charge of larceny. The complainant, Sam Marks, a theatre ticket speculator, said that he gave Har court \$10 to purchase six tickets at Wallack! Theatre and never got the tickets or the

money.

After first denying the charge, Harcourt admitted it and on his promise to refund the money was paroled until to-day.

Harcourt left court saying that he would raise the money by pawning his clothes. He could get \$50 for them, he said.

PUBLICATIONS.

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very palatable."-Boston Journal. "An animated and readable story."-

N. Y. Sun. "A well told and entertaining story."-Detroit Free Press.

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"A thoroughly likable story."-Newark Advertiser.

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Coffee Wagon for Brooklyn Firemen.

The firemen of Brooklyn received yes terday their new coffee wagon, which is to be used by Chief Murray at all big fires to supply sandwiches and hot coffee to the firemen. The wagon is supplied with a small gas tank so that the coffee can be kept hot for hours. The firemen will pay the expenses of keeping it, which will amount to only a few cents a month for each man.

AMUSEMENTS.

METROPOLITAN OPERA MOUNE.

Grand Opera Season 1002-1008.

Under the direction of Mr. Maurice Gran.
Last two weeks of Grand Opera.

TO MORROW EVG. at 8-LE PROPHETE. Schumans-Heink, Marilly: Alvares, Ed. de Rasske, Journet. Conductor. Plon.
Sat. Att. Mar. 14, at 2-DERO E LEANDRO. Gadski, Schumann-Heink. De Marchl. Ed. de Reszke, Dufriche. Conducted by the composer, Mancinelli. Sat. Evg. Mar. 14, at 8-da Pop. Prices — Double Bill—LA Fill. Ed. DU REGIMENT (The Daughter of Glibert. Conductor, Flon. Followed by PAGLI-ACCI. Scheff: Dani, Campanari. Conductor. Flon. Sun. Evg. Mar. 15, at 8:30.—Grand Popular Concert, when VERDI'S

Concert. when VERDI'S

REQUIEM MASS
will be performed. Soloists; Nordica. SchumannHeink: Salignac, Journet. Entire Opera Orchestra
and Chorus. Conductor. Mancinelli.

Mon. Evg., Mar. 16, at 7:45—Double Bill—DON
PASQUALE. Sembrich: Dani, Scotti, Gillipert.
Gunductor, Fion. Followed by CAVALLERIA
RUNTICANA. Gadeki, Homer; De Marchi, Campagari. Conductor Fion. FUSTICANA. Gadeki, Homer; De Marchi, Cam-panari. Cenductor Flon.

Wed, Evg., Mar. 18, at 8—LOHENGRIN. Nor-dica, Schumann Heink: Anthes, Blapham, Ed. de Reszke, Muhimann. Conductor, Hertz.

Fri. Evg., Mar. 20, at 8—Double Bills—LA FILL.E. Di' RECIMENT. Sembrich, Van Cauteren: Salig-nac. Gillbert. Conductor. Flon. Followed by DER WALD. Gadeki, Reuss-Beice; Authes. Bis-pham, Blass., Muhimann. Conductor, Hertz.

Actors' Home Benefit TO-DAY. Doors Open 12:20. ADMISSION, \$1. New York at Last Has OIRCLE, 60th and 10 living living living living living living living learning than London at the trite sayings of Library and is more mystified than ever at LEROY - TALMA - BOSCO, ALL STAR ACTS.

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SECULO THEATRE TO SECULO MIDES & FIELDS MINELY WHIRE Y

Thursday Eve., Mar. 16, 54 6.18.

Thursday Eve., Mar. 16, 54 6.18.

GEORG SCHUMANN. Overture

"Liebestrabling" (first time);

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DHILHARMONIC SOCIETY VALTER DAMROSCH....... Conductor.
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